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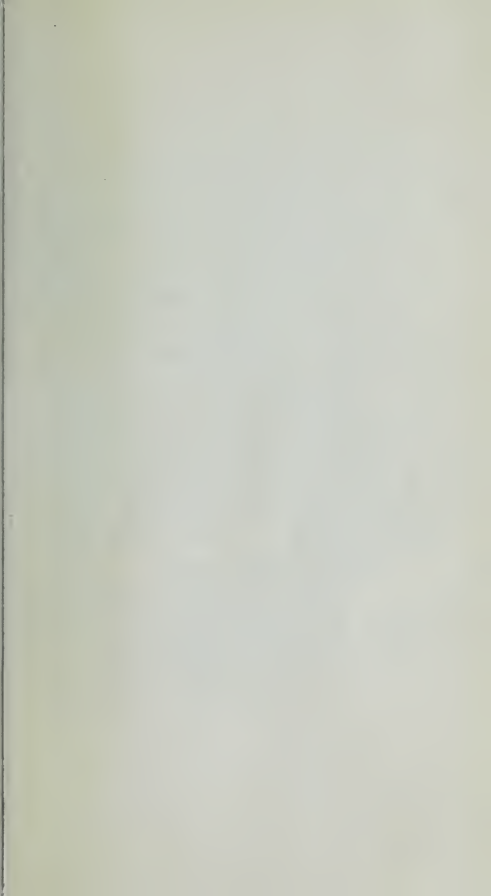
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Trail Guide to  
**THE NORTH COUNTRY**  
Yosemite National Park

LEWIS W. CLARK



## THE YOSEMITE HIGH COUNTRY

Up and beyond the north canyon rim of Yosemite Valley lies a vast wilderness area covering some 700 square miles of rugged, seldom visited country. It stands well above 8,000 feet and contains hundreds of miles of streams and lakes. These waters, principally stocked with Rainbows, provide some of the finest fishing in the Sierra. Many of its lakes, unnamed and not even appearing on regular topographical maps, offer a challenge seldom found elsewhere.

This "North Country" has been made accessible by over 500 miles of Park Service trails, and your security is assured by its extensive, well-planned system of signs and frequent Ranger Patrols. Entry into the area is made from the Cherry Valley, Mather, Hetch Hetchy, Harden Lake-White Wolf, and the Tenaya Lake-Tuolumne Meadows centers.





TRAIL GUIDE TO  
**THE NORTH COUNTRY**  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



Published under  
the auspices of



Stanford University Press  
Stanford, California

**LEWIS W. CLARK**

Former Seasonal Ranger  
Yosemite National Park

## SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

We want visitors to go into Yosemite's High Country. Here the atmosphere is clear, the ground fresh and clean, and the solitude broken only by the sounds of Nature. Here men may go to find inspiration, renewed vigor, and recreation in the larger sense amid the ungrazed meadows, uncut forests, and towering peaks reflected in sparkling, sapphire lakes.

The need to preserve such regions has been realistically recognized by Congress in the setting aside of these areas as National Parks and Monuments so they will be kept unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations as well as the present. Yosemite National Park, including almost 1,200 square miles of mountain wilderness, is mostly "back country," accessible only by trail.

In the High Country the long winters and sparse soil do not give Nature a chance to repair unusual damage done by human occupancy. To preserve this atmosphere of natural, unspoiled beauty we must remember that the real outdoorsman catches no more fish than he can eat—never more than the legal limit; leaves the camp cleaner than when he found it by burning trash and cans and then burying the remains; reports unusual damage to trails and signs; and, in all his conduct, governs himself so that

\* 917.9447 "only his footprints are left as evidence  
C 549t that man has passed this way."  
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JOHN C. PRESTON, *Superintendent*  
Yosemite National Park

REFERENCE

Unnamed lake, North Boundary Country



## PHYSICAL FEATURES

The "North Country" of Yosemite National Park covers an area of more than 500 square miles that makes up the watershed of the great Tuolumne River. This magnificent stream, rising in the glacial basins of the north slopes of the Lyell Crest, runs north and west across the entire breadth of the Park. Its spectacular Waterwheel Falls and many unnamed cascades, the majesty of the Muir Gorge, and the serenity of sparkling Hetch Hetchy Reservoir are but the highlights of a never to be forgotten trip through this wilderness area.

The Tuolumne River is fed by tributaries draining the entire northern section of the Park and empties into the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which serves as a storage basin for the early snow runoff which is subsequently utilized for power, irrigation, and drinking water for farms and cities hundreds of miles away.

Dozens of named and scores of unnamed lakes and ponds afford an unending variety of scenery, fishing, and camp sites. Two of the largest and most frequently visited which are unique in the character of their settings are Benson Lake and Tilden Lake. No trip through the North Country would be complete without an itinerary that included at least one of them.

The Sierra Crest, along the northeast boundary of the Park, is made up of a continuous chain of mountain peaks above 10,000 feet and contains numerous glacial basins at the foot of its sheer walls. Some are filled with snow fields the year around, others encircle small, blue-white glacial ponds frozen over until late summer, and a few hold the last remnants of still active glaciers reminiscent of the Ice Age that once enclosed this region.

## WILDLIFE

The lower ends of canyons and ridges near the Tuolumne Gorge support a wide variety of shrubs, flowers, and trees, but as the trails ascend into the High Country a simplification of Nature becomes the rule. Most trees belong to the conifer family with the Lodgepole Pine the most numerous. Small groves of Mountain Hemlocks cling to the cool, north slopes below mountain passes and giant Junipers and White-bark Pines, with their twisted and scarred trunks, add scenic beauty to the desolate, wind-swept ridges at timberline.

Streams provide an abundance of trout with the flashy Rainbow and colorful Eastern Brook usually taken. Some small lakes, planted years ago, pass through entire seasons without a visitor.

Deer and bear are numerous. Food should not be left unattended unless suspended far off the ground and well out between two trees.

Small animals and birds are found in abundance and include the Belding Ground Squirrel, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, and Marmot. Often heard but seldom seen is the tiny Yosemite Cony. Typical High Country birds are the Nutcracker, Woodpecker, Sapsucker, Junco, Rosy Finch, and Chickadee.



HIGHWAY 120

The most common points of departure used by those entering the North Country are Mather, Harden Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, Virginia and Green Lakes, Bridgeport, Kennedy Meadows, and Strawberry (near Pinecrest). Most of these places provide lodge and pack stock accommodations which should be arranged for well in advance to avoid disappointment during the rush season of summer. All of these points but Harden Lake are accessible to autos and bus service.

When going directly to *Yosemite Valley* before beginning a trip into the North Country you will find complete housing, supply, and information services. Housing facilities include numerous free camp grounds, housekeeping units (Camp 16 and Camp Curry), Yosemite Lodge, Camp Curry, and the Ahwanee. Those planning on staying in the public camp grounds should register first at the main office at Government Center where assignments are recommended and *Camp Fire Permits* are issued. These are *required* for all back-country trips. Stock must be kept at the Company Stables as no grazing is permitted on the floor of Yosemite Valley. Other services in the Valley include post offices, public telephone and telegraph, general merchandise stores, cafeterias and dining rooms, studios providing photographic supplies and developing, and the Museum at Government Center where extensive materials, relief maps, and trip-planning assistance are available.

*Mather*, at the western edge of the Park, is reached by bus from Oakdale and outside points and private car from Yosemite Valley.

Ranger Station

High Sierra Camp

Official NPS Camp Site

Main Trail (with gate across trail)

Alternate Trail to Principal Routes

Other Trails

Back-Packer's Route (foot trail only)

Mountain Pass

Main Road

Dirt Road

Park Boundary

Wilderness Area Boundary

Glacier

Blue letters along streams and lakes indicate fish usually taken as follows: R: Rainbow, EB: Eastern Brook, G: Golden, B: Brown

It is about halfway between Carl Inn and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Overnight accommodations, pack stock, and supplies for independent or guided trips into the North Country are available at Evergreen Lodge or Mather. Information regarding reservations may be obtained by writing Evergreen Lodge or the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. As there are no camping facilities near the reservoir, plan to stay at either Evergreen or Mather, or allow enough time to make it to Beehive or Smith Meadow by nightfall. Beehive is some 7.0 miles, about 2½ hours, up from the dam and makes an ideal first-night camp site. All parties going into the back country from here should register at the Mather District Ranger Station at the Park Boundary Checking Station, outlining their trip and the time they expect to be gone, and should secure their Camp Fire Permit.

*Harden Lake* provides an entry into the back country close to Pate Valley and reduces by one day the time needed to reach Pleasant Valley, Rodgers Canyon, and Benson Lake. Good camping sites, supplies, and pack stock can be secured at White Wolf. Harden Lake cannot be reached by car as the road in to it is only a Fire Control Road and is closed to the public. Good fishing and a fenced pasture make this an excellent overnight stop.

*Tuolumne Meadows* can be reached by car over the Tioga Road or by trail via the Merced Canyon, Sunrise, or Tenaya Lake trails. A bus connects it daily with all outside points during season. Its facilities include the High Sierra Lodge, store, service station, public camp grounds, pack station, and post office. Trip-planning services giving details of routes are available at the District Ranger Station

pastured up Lyell Fork Canyon as no grazing is permitted in the developed area of Tuolumne Meadows.

The east crest region of the Park is accessible from Lundy, Virginia Lakes, Green Lakes, Bridgeport and Twin Lakes, Buckeye Creek, and Leavitt Meadows. Supplies and pack stock are available at several places north along Highway 395. Information regarding specific areas can be secured from the Yosemite Park Headquarters or the East Side Packers' Association.

The north and west fringe area of the North Country can be entered through Leavitt Meadows, Kennedy Meadows, Strawberry (near Pinecrest), and Cherry Valley. Camping facilities, lodge accommodations, supplies, and stock are available.

## BEST TIME TO GO

July and August are the best months to travel in the North Country. The heaviest snow packs are gone from the passes, fallen trees and slides have been cleared from the trails, the streams are clear for fishermen, and most of the mosquitoes are gone. Unlike many mountain areas of the United States, the Sierra is relatively free from annoying insects and stormy weather between the last of June and the middle of September. Occasional afternoon showers of a half-hour to two hours' duration are a welcome respite to the mild to warm days and the dusty trail. Rains at night are very infrequent. Although the nights are crisp with some frost on the high meadows, the days are warm and permit the wearing of medium-to

## WHAT TO TAKE

Yosemite's "North Country" is strictly a wilderness area. Its extensive system of trails and signs and a few drift fences to keep stock from wandering too far mark the limits of its development by man. Trips into this region should be planned with care and every consideration given to the nature of the country, the time available, and tempered with your physical well-being and experience. Once entering the North Country you will truly be "on your own" until you return to civilization. Select your supplies and plan your days accordingly and allow a little extra as a safety measure.

Actual lists of what to take will vary with each individual's taste and idea as to what is "necessary." However, a few basic items and rules are suggested as a guide to your planning. The bulk and weight of your outfit will depend upon your mode of travel. Back-packers can carry as much as 50 to 60 pounds, but the inexperienced should begin with short trips and light loads around 30 to 40 pounds. Those with stock can plan on longer trips as a good burro will carry around 70 to 100 pounds while horses and mules will handle between 150 and 175 pounds. If you are inexperienced in camping or handling stock, the most satisfactory mode of travel is to walk and lead a good pack animal that is "stake-broke." If the same care is used as in planning for a back-pack trip, one good animal can carry enough food and equipment for two people for three to five weeks. Eliminate as much canned goods as possible and take, instead, dried or dehydrated foods. A good insect repellent is necessary, particularly in the early part of the season when an occasional epidemic of mosquitoes may give you trouble.



**Hetch Hetchy Reservoir**



In making up the cooking kit select units that will nest together to conserve space. Pressure cookers are invaluable as they nullify elevation factors, thus permitting the use of such dried items as beans, split peas, etc., and they cut down on the cooking time. This latter saving is important in areas where wood is scarce in overcamped sites or above timberline. The reflector oven is particularly good in baking fish, especially the large ones that are too thick to fry well. Remove dried foods from light paper or cellophane bags and repack them in light canvas, cloth, or heavy plastic bags with adhesive or other type tags on them identifying the contents.

Clothing should be of simple, durable type. Jeans, sweatshirts, medium-height shoes with composition soles, tennis shoes, good quality shirts, and a broad-brimmed hat are better than expensive, showy items. Usually one extra change of each of the basic units of dress will do. Other personal equipment might include a collapsible drinking cup, sun glasses, first-aid roll, flashlight, photographic equipment, and fishing tackle.

Recheck your list of camp equipment and take only what you feel is absolutely necessary. The lighter your pack the easier it will be to load and carry and, consequently, the farther you can travel with ease each day.

It is a good plan to pack, measure, and weigh your entire outfit before leaving home; you will then know in advance just how to plan the number of pack stock needed, how many of those extra luxury items you can include, and where to figure on resupplying if a long trip is planned.



## PREPARATION AND USE OF THIS GUIDE

This *Trail Guide to the North Country* combines the summary notes, records, and experiences of key personnel in the Naturalist Division, Patrol Rangers, and Engineering Department of the Park Service in Yosemite. In the shaping and editing of these materials into a practical layman's trail guide the author has included his trail notes and sketch maps made over the past dozen years while in the employ of the Park Service, the Curry Company, and during many seasons when, on his own, he has hiked or ridden all the trails and much of the untraveled wilderness of the Yosemite High Sierra.

Materials have been arranged into broad units, each of which may be completed in a single trip or tied in with another unit to develop a circle trip. All maps have been drawn to accurate topographical scale with the only exaggerations made in vertical form to give their user a general feel of the country he is to travel through. All mileage data have been taken directly from Park Engineer's maps and trail signs and presented in a Trail Profile.

On the maps will be found elevations at principal points, type of fish most likely to be taken in streams and lakes, and official NPS camp sites. Principal trails are shown in red; secondary trails are in brown. Trail notes in each section relate to actual traveling conditions, good camp sites, data on lateral trails, grazing and drift fences for stock, and unusual scenic attractions.

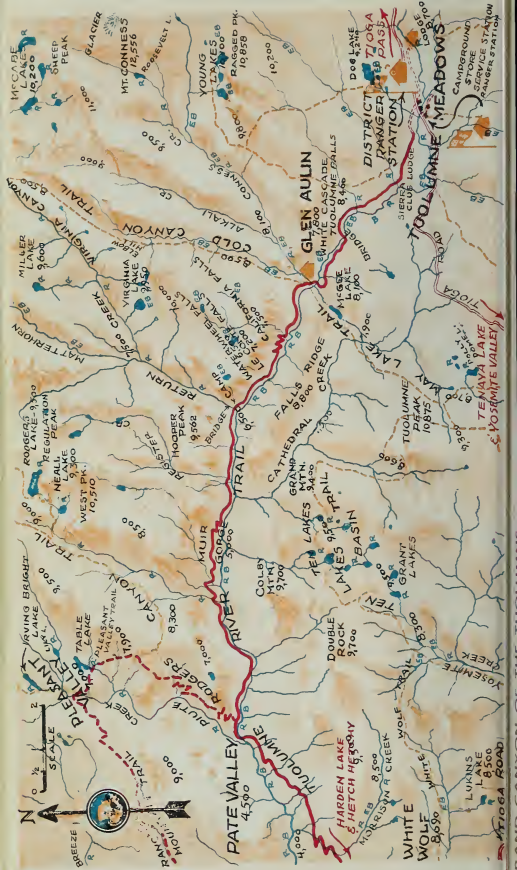
Photographs were taken by Ralph Anderson, former Park Photographer in Yosemite, and supplied through the courtesy of the National Park Service.

All materials in this *Guide* have been integrated with similar materials in the companion *Trail Guide to the High Sierra Camp Areas, Yosemite National Park*. A slight overlapping of areas covered in one *Guide* with those in other *Guides* by the author has been made to orient those traveling from one part of the Park to another. A third *Guide*, covering the southern section of the Park and referred to as "The Big Tree Country," is in preparation to complete the story of the attractions and trails extending throughout the Yosemite High Sierra.

Following the maps and materials on the trails of the North Country are sections on Mountaineering in the Yosemite High Sierra, and Glaciers of Yosemite—Past and Present. In the companion *Guide* covering the High Sierra Camp Areas are found articles on Geology, Life Zones and the Adaptation of Living Things to Life Zones in the Yosemite Region, Identification Charts of the Principal Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers, the Most Commonly Observed Animals, and Fishermen's Notes. In the *Trail Guide to the Big Tree Country* will appear articles on the Sequoias, Indians of Yosemite, the Devils Post Pile, and the Conservation Work of the Forestry and Fire Protective Departments of the National Park Service.

Winter Sports will be a special feature section of the *Big Tree Country Guide*, with colorful maps showing all principal ski trails in the area around Badger Pass ski center and highlights of winter sports activities in the Park.

All cartography, art work, and charts in these *Guides* are by the author; design and editing of materials by Virginia Dean.



# GRAND CANYON OF THE TUOLUMNE

The Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne affords an experience unique among all trips in the Yosemite High Sierra. From its beginnings in glacial ponds and snow-packed slopes of majestic peaks to the shimmering Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, it is the unfolding story of a great river. Its highlights include the famous Waterwheel Falls and cascades below Glen Aulin, Muir Gorge with its towering walls,

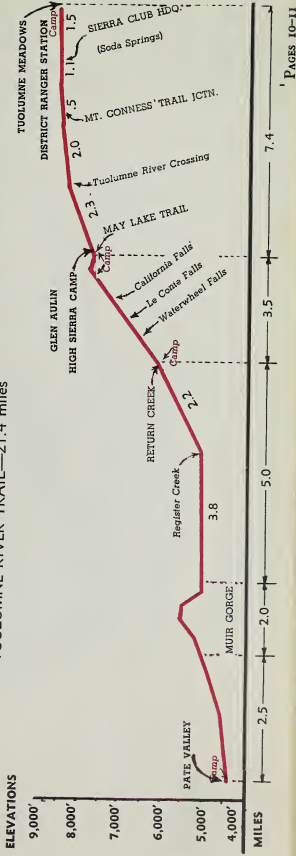
and the quiet serenity of Pate Valley where pictographs on the cliffs testify to the love of the region by Indians who lived there long ago.

The trail through the canyon is usually good but this is a rough trip and should be undertaken only after careful preparation. Grazing is found at Lyell Fork Canyon, McGee Lake, Pate Valley, and Pleasant Valley. Points of entry into this region are at Tuolumne Meadows and Harden Lake.

## TRAIL PROFILE

TUOLUMNE RIVER TRAIL—21.4 miles

## TUOLUMNE MEADOWS—PATE VALLEY



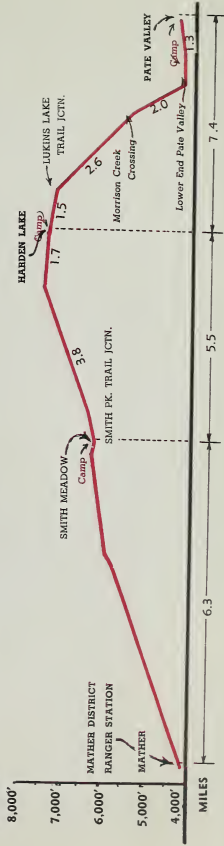


# GRAND CANYON OF THE TUOLUMNE, Cont.

Entry into the western end of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne can be made from the Mather-Hetch Hetchy or Harden Lake areas. Pack stock and supplies are available at Evergreen, Mather, and White Wolf. Back-packers can start at any of these places or at Hetch Hetchy dam, Mather District Ranger Station, or Harden Lake. Both the summit of Smith Peak and the area near the dam give very unusual views of the whole lower end of the canyon and should be included on your schedule if possible.

## TRAIL PROFILE

SMITH MEADOW, HARDEN LAKE, & TUOLUMNE RIVER TRAILS—19.2 miles



## MATHER RANGER STATION—PATE VALLEY

No camping is allowed near the dam or Ranger Station. If you have stock, stay at Smith Meadow, Harden Lake, or Pate Valley along the Harden Lake route. Or, if going by Rancheria, plan on camping at Pleasant Valley.

The gorge below the dam is accessible by trails down from the Mather highway to Poopenaut Valley (1.0 mi.) and just below the loop road near the dam (.4 mi.). Although these trails down into the gorge are passable to stock, each "dead ends" at the river. There is no well-defined trail along the river. No camping overnight here.



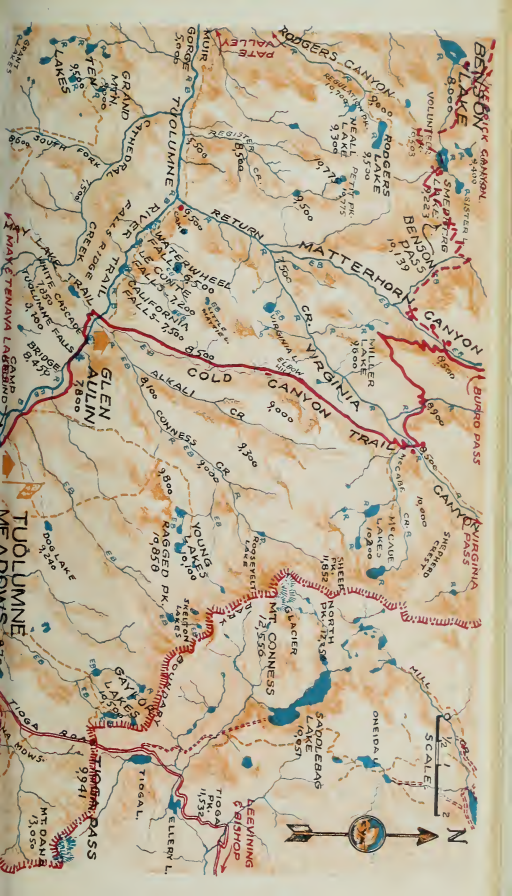
Area map of Pate Valley

The most favored camp site in Pate Valley is just above the bridges. Grazing can be controlled either below or above the camp for the area near the bridge. The extensive remains of Indian



Area map of Pleasant Valley

mounds and pictographs add interesting color to the area. At Pleasant Valley feed is exceptionally good in areas indicated; lakes near the area near the bridge. The extensive remains of Indian



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# GRAND CANYON OF THE TUOLUMNE, Cont.

PAGES 14-15

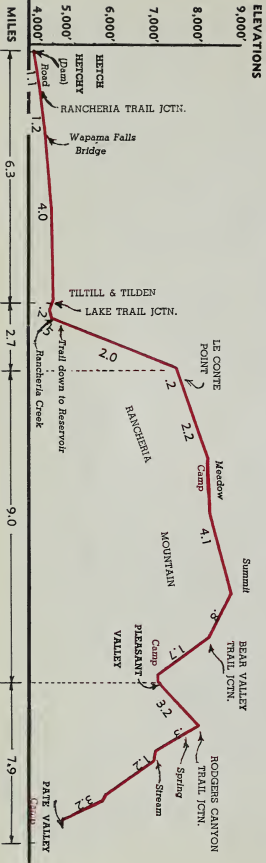
The Rancheria Mountain Trail, although generally warm and dry the latter part of the season, provides the most intimate views of the lower Grand Canyon. Following along the north shore of the Reservoir there is an almost continuous view of shining water and sheer granite walls. It is moderate in difficulty with steep, rough

stretches between Rancheria Creek and the top of Rancheria Mountain and also between Pleasant Valley and the Rodgers Canyon Trail junction. Although some grazing is available on top of Rancheria Mountain, it is limited and it would be difficult to hold stock. Better conditions exist at Pleasant Valley.

## TRAIL PROFILE

## HETCH HETCHY—PATE VALLEY

RANCHERIA, PLEASANT VALLEY, & RODGERS CANYON TRAILS—25.9 miles





# MATTERHORN CANYON COUNTRY

Tuolumne Meadows is the usual point of entry into the Matterhorn Country. Other points are:

*Tenaya Lake:* Good camp sites and excellent grazing below and on the east side of the lake along the Forsyth Pass Trail. The route from here would follow up Murphy Creek north to a junction with the May Lake Trail, then east past McGee Lake to Glen Aulin. There is some feed west of McGee Lake enabling those with stock to make

an overnight stop to visit the many cascades and waterwheel falls along the Tuolumne River.

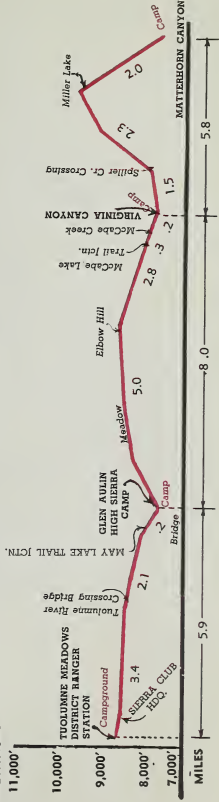
*Virginia or Green Lakes:* From here entry is made into the eastern section of the Park via Summit Lake (10,200') or Virginia Pass (10,500') into upper Virginia Canyon. There are accommodations, supplies, and pack stock at both places.

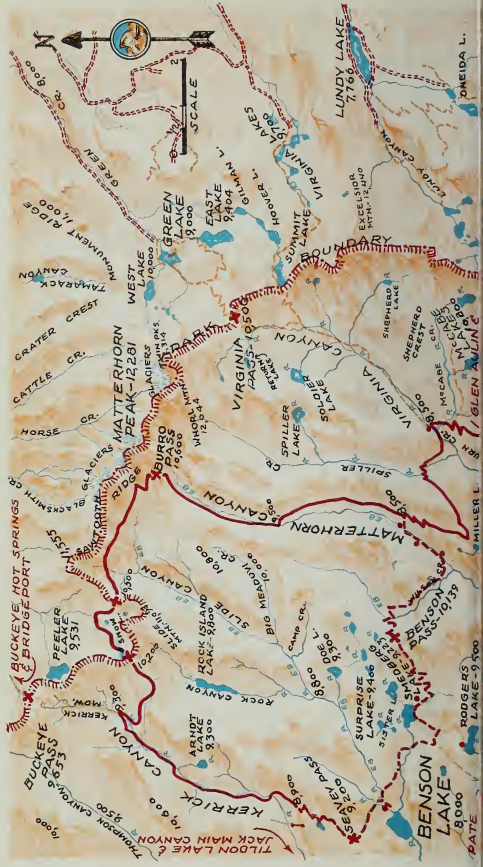
*Bridgeport and Buckeye Pass:* This approach leads into upper Kerrick Canyon to Kerrick Meadows. From there choice of route into

## TRAIL PROFILE

## TUOLUMNE MEADOWS—MATTERHORN CANYON

TUOLUMNE RIVER, COLD CANYON, & MATTERHORN CANYON TRAILS—19.7 miles





BUCKEYE HOT SPRINGS  
BRIDGEPORT

BUCKEYE PASS-6,533  
CANYON-9,500

PEELER LAKE-9,531  
KERRICK

THOMPSON CANYON-9,500  
JACK MAIN CANYON-10,600

MATTERHORN PEAK-12,281  
GLACIERS  
BURRO PASS-10,600  
WHOLE MOUNTAIN-12,644

SLIDE CANYON-10,200  
SLIDE MOUNTAIN-10,300  
ROCK ISLAND LAKE-9,800  
ARNDT LAKE-9,300

SLIDE CANYON-10,800  
BIG MESA CANYON-10,000  
CAMP CR.

ROCK CANYON  
SURPRISE LAKE-9,406  
SISTER LAKE-9,223  
SWANBERG LAKE-9,223

BUCKEYE PASS-9,200

BUCKEYE PASS-10,500  
VIRGINIA CANYON  
SPILLER LAKE  
LODGER LAKE  
RETURN LAKE

SPILLER CR.  
MILLER L.

BENSON PASS-10,139  
RODGERS LAKE-9,500  
PATE

CRATER CREST  
CATTLE CR.  
HORSE CR.  
GLACIERS  
TAMARACK CANYON  
MONUMENT RIDGE-11,000  
GREEN CR. 8,000

WEST LAKE-10,000  
GREEN LAKE-9,000  
EAST LAKE-9,404  
GLIMAN L.  
HOVER L.  
VIRGINIA LAKES-9,790  
SUMMIT LAKE  
EXCELSIOR MTN-12,440

LUNDY CANYON  
LUNDY LAKE-7,766  
OWEIDA L.

SHEPHERD LAKE  
SHEPHERD CREST  
WYOCABE CR.  
WYOCABE LAKE-8,500  
GLEN AULING

SCALE  
1 2  
0 1/2 1 2



BOUNDARY

# MATTERHORN CANYON COUNTRY, Cont.

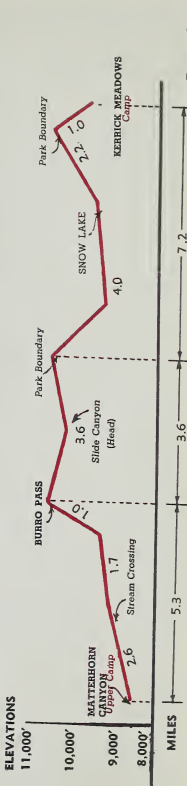
the Matterhorn can be made via Burro Pass or Benson Lake. The Burro Pass route is likely to be under snow the early part of the season. *White Wolf and Harden Lake*: From this western portal an outstanding trip of several weeks' duration can be planned to include Pate Valley, Rodgers Canyon, Benson Lake, Kerrick Canyon, Burro Pass, Matterhorn and Virginia canyons, and Glen Aulin; you may then come out to the Tioga Road at Tuolumne Meadows or Tenaya Lake, or return to White Wolf via the Ten Lakes Country or the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne.



Smedberg Lake

## TRAIL PROFILE

MATTERHORN CANYON TRAIL—16.1 miles



# MATTERHORN CANYON—KERRICK MEADOWS



**Area map of Matterhorn Canyon**

The many lakes in this region, such as Smedberg, Surprise, Sister, Neall, and Rodgers, all provide good fishing and typical High Sierra atmosphere. Rock and Slide canyons and the many lakes between there and Smedberg Lake make this a back-packer's paradise to explore the most remote region of the Park. Good grazing will be found at Virginia Canyon, Matterhorn Canyon, Kerrick Meadows, in lower Kerrick Canyon at the junction of the Bear Valley Trail, Benson Lake, Smedberg Lake, and Rodgers Canyon.

In Matterhorn Canyon there is a choice of several camp sites

where fishing, grazing, and scenery are tops. This is an ideal layover spot for both back-packers and those with stock. Those passing through via Virginia Canyon and Benson Pass should at least make a special trip into the head of the canyon toward Burro Pass. The towering crags of Sawtooth Ridge and the Matterhorn Crest invite exploration and photography at its best. Here, in the very upper benches at the head of Matterhorn Canyon, the back-packer will find the ultimate in seclusion and scenic grandeur of the Sierra.



Upper Matterhorn Canyon



**Map Labels:**

- Trails:** TUOLUMNE RIVER TRAIL, KERRICK CANYON TRAIL, BEAR VALLEY TRAIL, REGISTER CR., RETURN CR.
- Peaks:** TOWER PK. 11,704, CENTER MTN. 11,220, GROUSE MTN. 10,764, CRAIG PK. 11,041, SNOW PK. 10,933, WELLS PK. 11,071, THOMPSON 9,500, TILDEN LAKE 8,800, BOND PASS 9,750, GRACE MEADOWS 9,000, CHITTENDEN PEAK 10,133, MACOMB RIDGE 9,951, SEAVEY PASS 9,200, BUCKEYE PASS 9,653, PEELER L. 9,531, ARNDT L. 9,300, DOE L. 9,300, SURPRISE L. 9,900, SISTER L. 9,220, VOLUNTEER PK. 10,503, PATIT PK. 10,975, MUIR GORGE 5,000.
- Lakes:** MARY LAKE 9,600, DOROTHY LAKE 9,000, BENSON LAKE 8,000, BEAR VALLEY 9,000, IRVING BAGWELL L. 7,500, TABLE L., NEALL LAKE 9,300, RODGERS LAKE 9,500, ROCK ISL. LAKE 9,800, DOE L. 9,300, SURPRISE L. 9,900, SISTER L. 9,220, VOLUNTEER PK. 10,503, PATIT PK. 10,975, MUIR GORGE 5,000.
- Other:** KENNEDY MDS., JACK MAIN, WILMER, STUBBLEFIELD, KERRICK CANYON, BUCKEYE PASS, PEELER L., ARNDT L., DOE L., SURPRISE L., SISTER L., VOLUNTEER PK., PATIT PK., MUIR GORGE, TUOLUMNE RIVER, REGISTER CR., RETURN CR., HETCH HETCHY, PATE VALLEY 4,500, HARDEN L., MATHER.

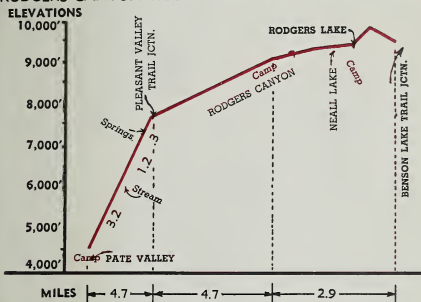
# BENSON LAKE COUNTRY

Benson Lake lies at the crossroads in the northern Sierra and entry is made by several routes, all of which offer a great variety of scenery, fishing, and all-around good camping. When planning round trips little or no retracing of route is required. Both its beauty and proximity to many other unusual scenic attractions make it a most desirable camping area where a "base camp" can be established for an entire vacation period. Fishing is usually quite good except in early season when both stream and lake are high and turbulent. Best conditions will be found after the middle of July when the water is down, weather is mild, and most of the mosquitoes are gone.

## TRAIL PROFILE

## PATE VALLEY—BENSON LAKE

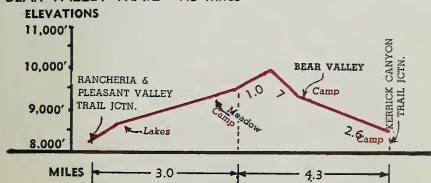
RODGERS CANYON TRAIL—12.3 miles



## TRAIL PROFILE

## RANCHERIA MTN.—KERRICK CANYON

BEAR VALLEY TRAIL—7.3 miles



## BENSON LAKE COUNTRY, Cont.

The floor of the valley above the lake is quite level, is heavily wooded, and supports an abundance of feed for stock. It is about one-fourth of a mile wide and a half mile long, with towering granite walls on either side. The entire region near by abounds in opportunities for fishing, mountain climbing, and photography.

The Rodgers Canyon route might well include a side trip to Pleasant Valley. The Rodgers Canyon "Short Trail" that bypasses Neall and Rodgers lakes is 1.9 miles long, saving 1.6 miles, but omits two of the finest gems of the High Sierra.

The Bear Valley Trail connecting Rancheria Mountain and Kerrick Canyon follows along the crest of a high ridge most of the way. Camps, with grazing, are found near the crest of the ridge and at Bear Valley.

North of the Tuolumne River the general lay of the country is in a northeast to southwest direction, hence almost all trails lie in similar pattern along the floor of the canyons. A succession of lateral trails cuts across the upper ends of the canyons to tie them together from Virginia to Jack Main. Mileages on these laterals are: Wilmer to Tilden Canyon, 1.8; Tilden Canyon to Stubblefield Canyon, 3.7; Stubblefield to Kerrick canyons, 2.0; Kerrick Canyon to Benson Lake, 3.6; Benson Lake to Matterhorn Canyon, 11.1; and Matterhorn to Virginia canyons, 5.8.

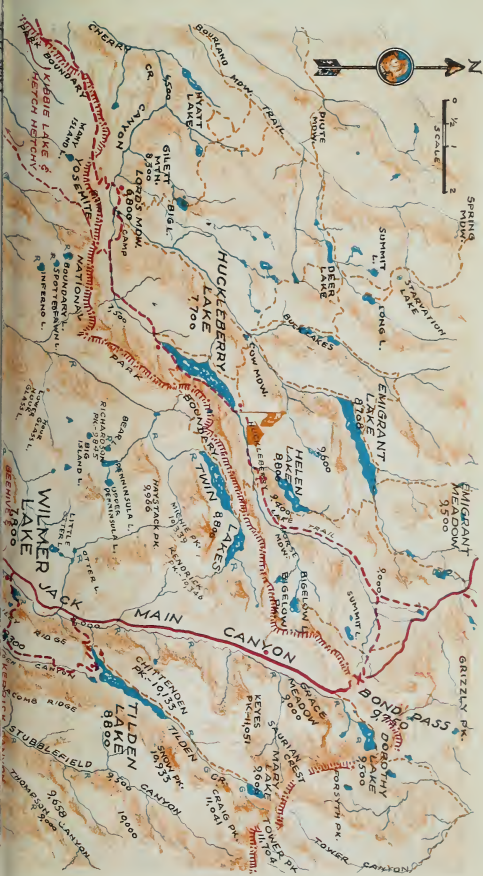
Camp sites, with grazing, will be found wherever this cross-country succession of lateral trails crosses the floor of canyons. Best sites are at Wilmer, Benson Lake, Matterhorn, and Virginia. The



### Area map of Benson Lake

only other lateral tying the heads of canyons together is that from upper Matterhorn to upper Kerrick canyons, some 12 miles.





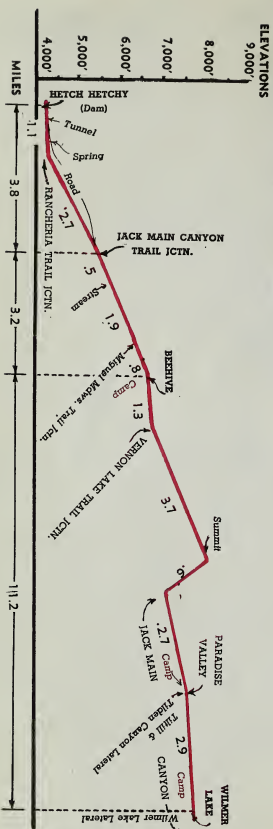
# NORTH BOUNDARY COUNTRY

Exploration of the northwest boundary section of the Park can be made via four main trails, all starting at Hetch Hetchy dam: (1) Jack Main Canyon, (2) Tiltill Valley-Tilden Canyon, (3) Kibbie Lake, and (4) Kibbie Ridge-Huckleberry Lake.

Along the lower Jack Main Canyon route the best camp sites are

## TRAIL PROFILE

JACK MAIN CANYON TRAIL—18.2 miles



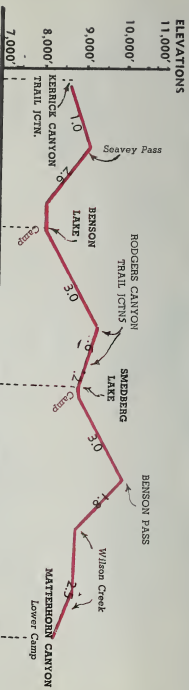
at Beehive, Paradise Valley, and Wilmer. Beehive, with its beautiful wooded basin, fenced pasture, and picturesque setting near the old cattleman's cabin, is an ideal spot for the first night out. The trail along Moraine Ridge is usually dry and warm. It descends into Jack Main Canyon via the rocky "Golden Stairs," then follows along the stream to Paradise Valley, a beautiful area with acres of fenced meadow.

## LOWER JACK MAIN CANYON



**TRAIL PROFILE**

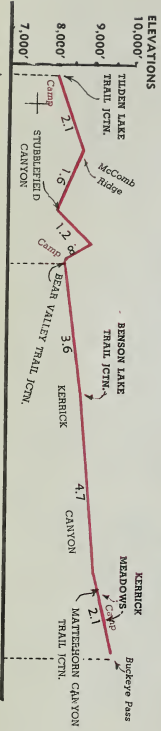
BENSON LAKE TRAIL—14.7 miles



**BENSON LAKE TRAIL**

**TRAIL PROFILE**

STUBBLEFIELD CANYON & KERRICK CANYON TRAILS—16.1 miles

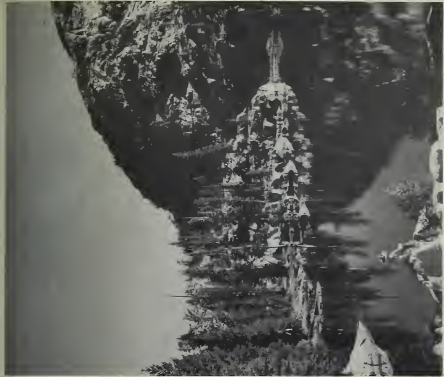
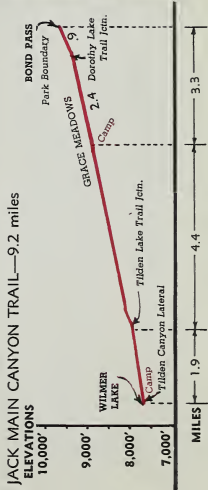


**TILDEN CANYON JCTN.—BUCKEYE PASS**

# NORTH BOUNDARY COUNTRY, Cont.

Above Paradise Valley good camp sites are at Wilmer, Tilden Lake, and Grace Meadows. The site at Wilmer is to the south, across the stream near the lake. At Tilden Lake stock can be held best on the north side of the lake (see Area Map, p. 30); Grace Meadows is usually a hard place to hold stock. A fine view of the great watershed basins of this entire region can be seen if you leave the trail at Bond Pass and go cross-country east to the high shoulder of Grizzly Peak.

## TRAIL PROFILE                      UPPER JACK MAIN CANYON



Lake at Seavy Pass

## TRAIL SUMMARY, NORTH BOUNDARY SECTION

### JACK MAIN CANYON:

Beehive to: Laurel Lake, 1.2; Lake Eleanor, 5.5; Miguel Mdw. 5.1  
 Vernon Lake Lateral: Vernon to Tiltill Valley, 6.8; to Jack Main Canyon Trail, 2.0

Paradise Valley Lateral: to Tiltill-Tilden Lake Trail Junction 2.4  
 Wilmer Lateral: to Tiltill-Tilden Lake Trail Junction 1.8  
 Tilden Lake Lateral: Jack Main to lower end Tilden Lake 1.8  
 Mary Lake Trail: lower end Tilden Lake to Mary Lake 4.5  
 Dorothy Lake Trail: Jack Main Canyon Trail to Dorothy Lake .6

### WEST BOUNDARY TRAILS:

Kibbie Lake to Kibbie Ridge Trail 3.0  
 Cherry Valley to: Lake Eleanor, 2.6; Huckleberry Lake, 25.0; Bond Pass, 33.0

## NORTH AND WEST OF PARK

### MAIN ROUTES

- |   | Approximate<br>Miles |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Cherry Valley to Bond Pass (via Kibbie Ridge and Huckleberry Lake)             | 30.0                 |
| 2. Kennedy Meadows to Huckleberry Lake (via Lunch and Horse meadows)              | 18.0                 |
| 3. Bond Pass to Lunch Meadow (via Emigrant Meadow)                                | 8.0                  |
| 4. Dardanelles to Huckleberry Lake (via Cooper Meadow, Deer Lake, and Cow Meadow) | 22.0                 |



Area map of Tilden Lake

5. Huckleberry Lake to: Kennedy Mdw., 20.0; Lunch Mdw., 10.0;  
 Emigrant Lake, 6.0; Maxwell Lake, 4.0; Cow Mdw., 3.0

## NORTH BOUNDARY COUNTRY, Cont.

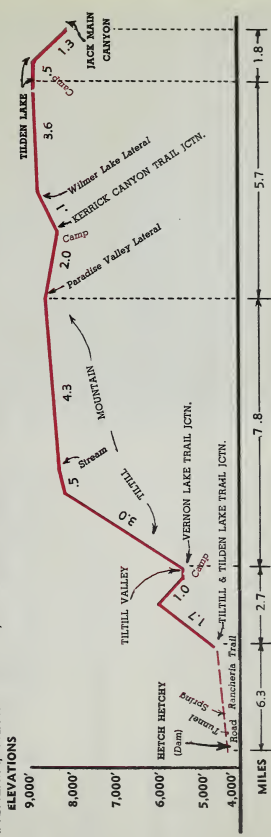
The Tiltill Valley-Tilden Canyon route is, because of its general elevation and slope exposure, warmer and drier than the route up Jack Main Canyon. In the early part of the season, especially after heavy rains, lower Jack Main is subject to flooding that makes travel

and camping difficult. The Tiltill route is then more desirable. Highlights include the beautiful trip along the north shore of Hetchy Reservoir past the foot of Wapama Falls, Tiltill Valley, views from atop Tiltill Mountain, and Tilden Lake.

## TRAIL PROFILE

RANCHERIA, TILTILL VALLEY, & TILDEN LAKE TRAILS—24.3 miles

## HETCH HETCHY—TILDEN LAKE



## NORTH BOUNDARY COUNTRY, Cont.

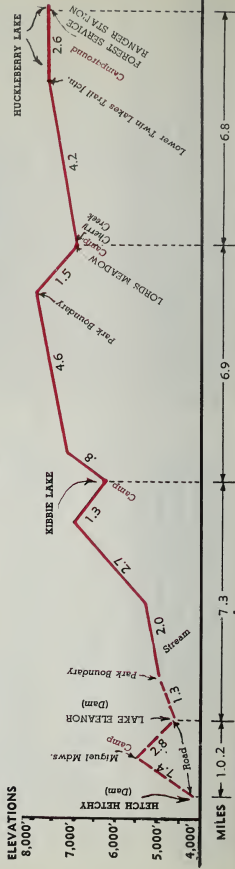
There are two routes between Lake Eleanor and Huckleberry Lake. The new Kibbie Lake Trail has not been traveled too much and may be somewhat difficult to follow, but this area is much more scenic (and some 6.0 miles shorter) than the older route outside the Park along Kibbie Ridge. (Note: No camping or fishing is allowed at Lake Eleanor or in the tributary streams emptying into it for a

distance of 1.0 mile above the lake and below the dam. Waters are used for drinking water and spawning grounds for gathering roe for the fish hatcheries.) Those using the Kibbie Ridge Trail should camp at Kibbie Lake, Cherry Creek crossing, or Huckleberry Lake. Several miles of the trail below Huckleberry is along the floor of the canyon over very slick or rough rock and should be traveled with caution.

## TRAIL PROFILE

## HETCH HETCHY—HUCKLEBERRY LAKE

### KIBBIE LAKE & HUCKLEBERRY LAKE TRAILS—31.2 miles





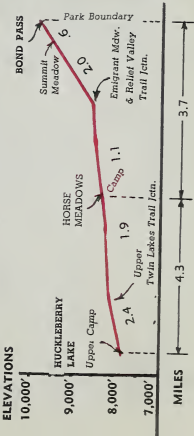
LATERALS (Continued from page 30)

	Approximate Miles
1. Bigelow Lake (from near Bond Pass)	3.0
2. Emigrant Lake lateral (from Cow Meadow to Horse and Lunch meadows trail)	4.0
3. Cow Meadow to Huckleberry Lake	3.0
4. Kennedy Meadows to Upper Relief Valley	9.5
5. Eagle Meadow to Lower Relief Valley (via Long Meadow)	8.0
6. Pinecrest Lookout Rd. to Cooper Mdw. (via Coyote Mdw.)	7.0

7. Burst Rock (Gianelli Cabin) to Whiteside Meadow (via Lake Valley)	6.0
8. Piney Valley to Whiteside Meadows (via Bear and Camp lakes)	7.0
9. Kennedy Meadows to Walker Meadows (via Kennedy Lake and Kennedy Canyon)	16.0
10. Kelly Flat to Cherry Valley Reservoir (via North Mountain Lookout and Park Boundary)	14.0

# TRAIL PROFILE    HUCKLEBERRY LAKE—BOND PASS

HUCKLEBERRY LAKE TRAIL—8.0 miles



Tilden Lake



## NORTH VALLEY RIM & SUNRISE COUNTRY

The country along the north rim of Yosemite Valley and along the great divide between the Merced River and Tenaya Creek canyons offers an unending variety of spectacular, scenic attractions such as the crests of El Capitan, Upper Yosemite Falls, North Dome, Half

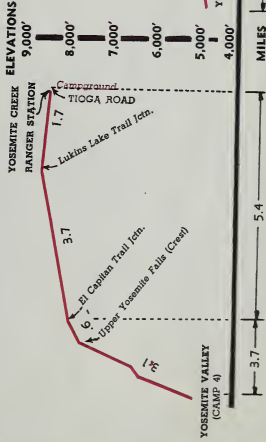
Dome, and Clouds Rest. This whole region is particularly suited to back-packer trips and one-day or overnight hikes.

A very unusual overnight trip can be made between Tenaya Lake and Yosemite Valley via the Forsyth Pass Trail. Except for the easy climb to Forsyth Pass the whole trip is along fairly level or down-hill trails. Highlights include the ascents of Clouds Rest and Half

### TRAIL PROFILES

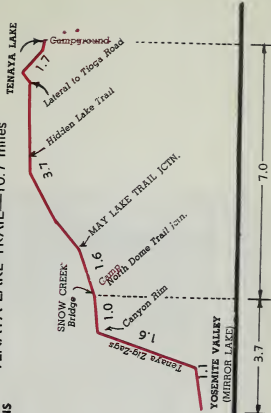
#### YOSEMITE VALLEY—YOSEMITE CREEK R.S.

YOSEMITE CREEK TRAIL—9.1 miles



#### YOSEMITE VALLEY—TENAYA LAKE

TENAYA LAKE TRAIL—10.7 miles



Tenaya Lake



# NORTH VALLEY RIM & SUNRISE COUNTRY, Cont.

Dome, camping along beautiful Sunrise Creek, Little Yosemite Valley, and the crests of Nevada and Vernal falls. Best camps where grazing is good are near the junction of the Forsyth Pass and Sunrise trails and along Sunrise Creek. Good back-packer camps are at the

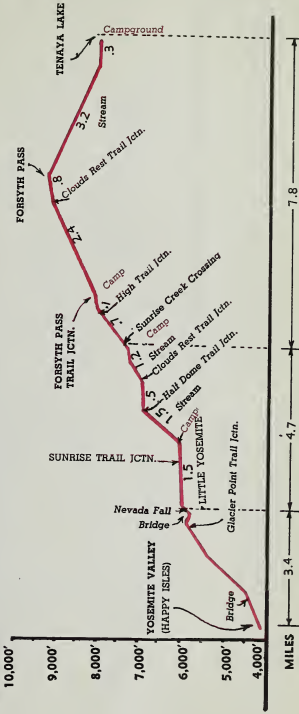
junction of the Clouds Rest and Sunrise trails and, in Little Yosemite, at the Trail Crew Camp on Sunrise Creek.

The Sunrise Trail, between Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, runs through a great variety of beautiful country. Both

## TRAIL PROFILE

MERCER RIVER, SUNRISE, & FORSYTH PASS TRAILS—15.9 miles

## YOSEMITE VALLEY—TENAYA LAKE





Knapsackers headed for the Ten Lakes region can "cross-country" down an easy slope from the lower end of Cathedral Lake to Tenaya Lake and then continue north up Murphy Creek.

Other easy one-to-three-day trips can be worked out along the many trails leading to special points of interest along the north rim of the Valley, such as the crest of El Capitan, Eagle Peak, crest of upper Yosemite Falls, North Dome, and Indian Rock. By starting at the lower end of the Valley and following the Old Gentry Stage Road up to the west end of El Capitan Trail, one can then travel east to include all these points of interest and return to the Valley via the Tenaya Zig-Zags and Mirror Lake. Trail mileages for special or lateral trails in this section are:

### NORTH RIM TRAILS

El Capitan Trail (Yosemite Creek to Old Gentry Stage Road)	9.6
Yosemite Falls Trail (Yosemite Creek to Tioga Road)	6.0
North Dome Trail (Yosemite Falls Trail to Snow Creek)	7.1
Indian Peak Trail (North Dome Trail to summit of peak)	.3
Hidden Lake cut-off (between Tenaya Lake Trail and Snow Flat)	1.7

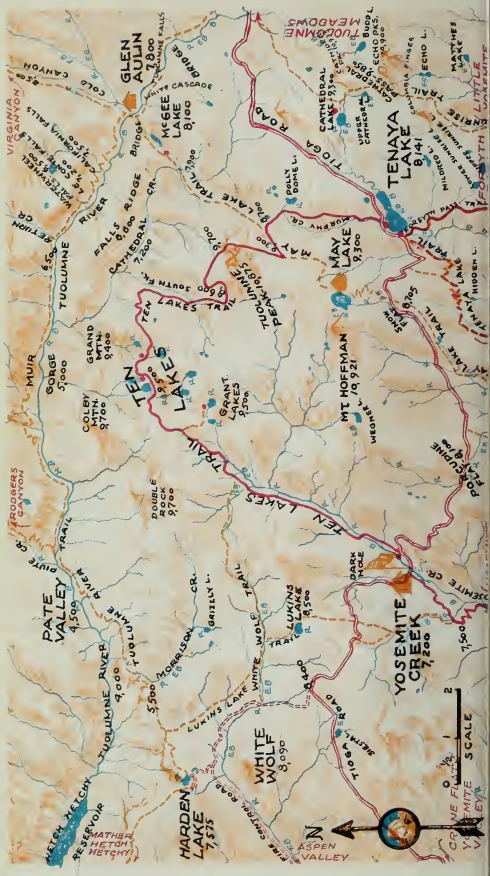
### SUNRISE COUNTRY:

Half Dome Trail (from jctn. Sunrise Trail to dome summit)	2.0
Clouds Rest Trail (between Sunrise and Forsyth Pass trails)	5.6

High Trail (between Sunrise Trail and Echo Flat)  
Cathedral Lake Trail (Sunrise Trail in to the lake)



Area map of Tuolumne Meadows



VIRGINIA CANYON

RODGERS CANYON

MATHER HETCHY RESERVOIR

PATE VALLEY

HARDEN LAKE 7,575

TUOLUMNE RIVER

GRAND MOUNTAIN 9,400

GRAND MOUNTAIN 9,400

FALLS RIDGE

GLEN AULIN

WHITE WOLF

LUKINS LAKE

GRANT LAKES 9,500

TEN LAKES

MCGEE LAKE 8,100

WHITE CASCAD

ASPEN VALLEY

TIOGA ROAD

WHITE WOLF TRAIL

GRANT LAKES 9,500

MAY LAKE 9,300

TIOGA ROAD

Yosemite Creek 7,200

Yosemite Creek

Yosemite Creek

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Yosemite Creek



# TEN LAKES COUNTRY

The Ten Lakes Country is rich in its offering of fishing, scenery, and all-around good camping. Back-packers wishing to avoid the steep climb out of Yosemite Valley can go around the Tioga Road and start from Yosemite Creek Ranger Station or Tenaya Lake. Supplies and pack stock can be secured at Yosemite Valley, White Wolf, or Tuolumne Meadows.

## TRAIL PROFILE

TEN LAKES, MAY LAKE & TENAYA LAKE TRAILS—22.4 miles



## SUMMARY OF TRAILS

White Wolf Trail (to junction with Ten Lakes Trail)  
 Grant Lakes Trail

Lukins Lake Trail (Yosemite Cr. to Tuolumne River Tr. Jctn.): 5.5  
 (Yosemite Creek to Tioga Road, 2.6; Tioga Road to White Wolf Trail Junction, 2.2; White Wolf Trail to Tuolumne River Trail Junction near Harden Lake, 3.4)  
 1.0  
 8.2

## YOSEMITE CREEK R.S.—TENAYA LAKE

## MOUNTAINEERING IN YOSEMITE'S NORTH COUNTRY

The North Country abounds in skyline crests and towering peaks. Unlike many mountain regions of the United States, the most rugged peaks are fairly accessible and moderate in the difficulty of their ascent. Most of them have been climbed many times and those planning ascents can secure extensive information regarding particular approaches from Ranger Headquarters. In many instances stock can be taken to within a mile or so of the summit and no special rock-climbing techniques are required if care is used in selecting routes to the top.

Mountain-climbing parties are conducted each summer out of Tuolumne Meadows. These groups, headed by experienced Park Service guides, include such peaks as Lyell, Dana, and Conness, and give the maximum in safety, scenic beauty, and "mountaineering" experience for the inexperienced.

Almost anyone in physical condition good enough to travel through the High Country can scale its peaks without too much difficulty. A few basic rules might well be observed to avoid mishap and make the climbs easier: never travel alone off the regular routes, wear "sneakers" or composition-soled shoes to avoid slipping, take along enough food to replenish your spent energy and a little extra in case of delay, and—take it easy. At these elevations slow and steady does it. Most of the "heroes" of daring routes of ascent are usually found in storybooks or at the base of some rocky cliff.

Unusual panoramic views of Yosemite's High Sierra can be secured from Sentinel Dome near Glacier Point and from Lookout

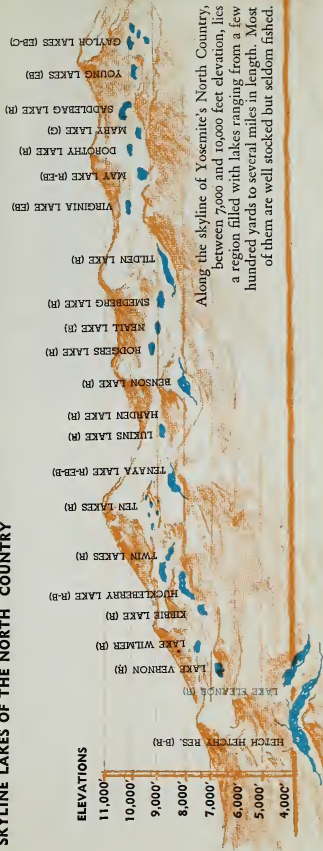


Neall Lake

Point in the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, both of which can be reached by car. Other vantage points offering a preview of High Country to be visited but reached only by trail are Half Dome, Smith

Peak near Mather, and Mount Hoffman near May Lake. Other exceptional viewpoints in the Park are at Red Peak, Vogelsang, and Post Peak passes.

## SKYLINE LAKES OF THE NORTH COUNTRY



Along the skyline of Yosemite's North Country, between 7,000 and 10,000 feet elevation, lies a region filled with lakes ranging from a few hundred yards to several miles in length. Most of them are well stocked but seldom fished.

## GLACIERS OF YOSEMITE'S HIGH SIERRA

Glaciers of Yosemite, both present and past, attract a great deal of attention. From the level floors of deep canyons to the last skyline glacial cirque, one is ever aware of the unseen presence of a momentous force of Nature and Time that once pervaded this entire region.

The vast expanse of the wilderness area of Yosemite's High Sierra presents, with its ever-changing panorama, certain consistent patterns of geological formations such as the sheer, U-shaped canyons; the giant, stairstep floors of deep valleys which give rise to roaring cascades and plunging waterfalls; the level valley floors supporting flat meadows and tall trees testifying to the deep, sediment-filled basins beneath them; the glacial polished walls and turns of bare, granitoid canyons; and, along the skyline ridges, the glacial cirques and ponds, graveyards of glaciers long gone.

There are about 60 glaciers in the Sierra Nevada still active in their work of quarrying down the great Sierra bloc, and their melting ice and snows support a continuous flow of waters to the mountain streams. Those most active in the Yosemite region are found on the higher peaks, such as Lyell, McClure, Dana, Conness, and the Matterhorn crest. They are well above 11,000' elevation and are the remnants of what is referred to as the "Little Ice Age" of comparatively recent historical times. Geologically speaking, they are "young," having their beginnings later than 2000 B.C. Their origin and continued survival have been possible only due to certain very favorable conditions: all are found in deep, cirque-like basins on the

### Dana Glacier

north and northeast sides of peaks, in which snow has been trapped by the prevailing westerly and southwesterly winds; and all are hugged close to sheer cliffs which shade them much of the day, even during the summer months. Such sun as they are exposed to reaches them in long, slanting rays devoid of most of their melting power.

The largest of Yosemite's ancient glaciers was in the Tuolumne Canyon and its laterals. It was some 60 miles in length. It lay, like

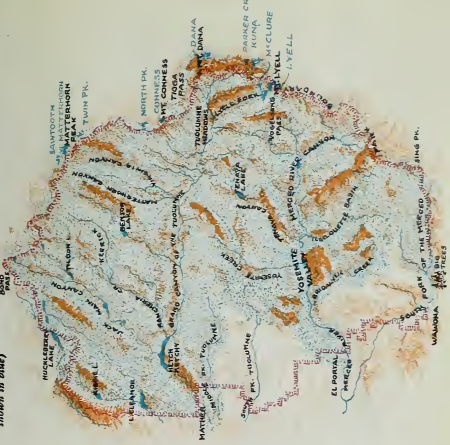


# MAXIMUM EXTENT OF GLACIERS

(Names of existing glaciers shown in blue)

a great mantle up to 2,000' thick, over much of a great basin some 500 miles square. As it moved down into and through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River it ranged in thickness up to 5,000'. In the earlier Ice Ages of Yosemite it is estimated that ice in the upper part of Yosemite Valley reached a thickness of 3,000'. Depths in other regions were: Tenaya Canyon, 1,700'; Tenaya Lake Basin, 2,300'; Snow Creek Valley, 1,500'; above Polly Dome, 600'; and, above Basket Dome, 700'. However, not all of Yosemite's High Sierra was covered with ice. Many of the extreme summits of peaks and ridges were kept clear of accumulating snows by the strong prevailing winds, and glaciers never had a chance to form. As the massive floes of ice moved along, they bypassed many peaks and ridges; these stood like granite islands in a vast sea of tumbled, glittering ice.

Glacial Survey Parties are sent out each year by the Park Service and their findings are co-ordinated with a continent-wide glacial survey program that includes data on all North American glaciers. Yosemite's glaciers are found to be approximately 200' to 300' thick, and are less than a mile in length, some only a quarter of a mile long. In some areas the presence of new glacial debris in empty glacial cirques and the complete disappearance of several small glaciers in the last fifty years indicate a fairly rapid rate of deterioration of some of the glaciers. However, the 1953 survey's findings regarding Lyell Glacier indicate it has a higher profile than it had in 1951. Its increase in thickness indicates a "reversal of trend of the past twenty years" and that possibly it is "passing the turning point from its long period of recession to a period of growth." All surveys show that Yosemite's glaciers are very sensitive to any climatic changes and,



even in one winter, they reflect changes in area and depth. Therefore, only by long-range studies by skilled observers can generalizations be made about glaciers in the Yosemite region.

The story of Yosemite's High Sierra is the story of the Past. To pause and meditate on a skyline crest brings a deep sense of mystery that prevails over the entire region. Here the secrets of the past are exposed to view in the empty graves of ancient glacial cirques and Time is measured in glacial epochs; we are looking upon a land still in its infancy in the evolution of our mountains.

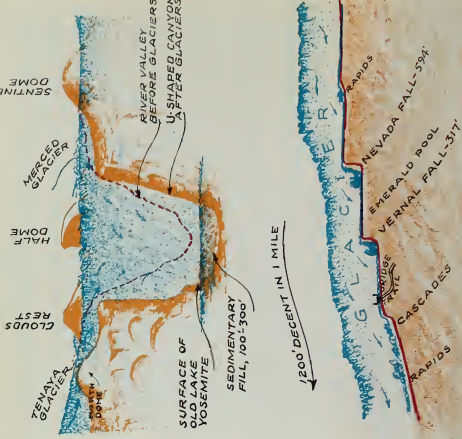
## GLACIAL ACTIVITY FORMS

### U-SHAPED CANYONS

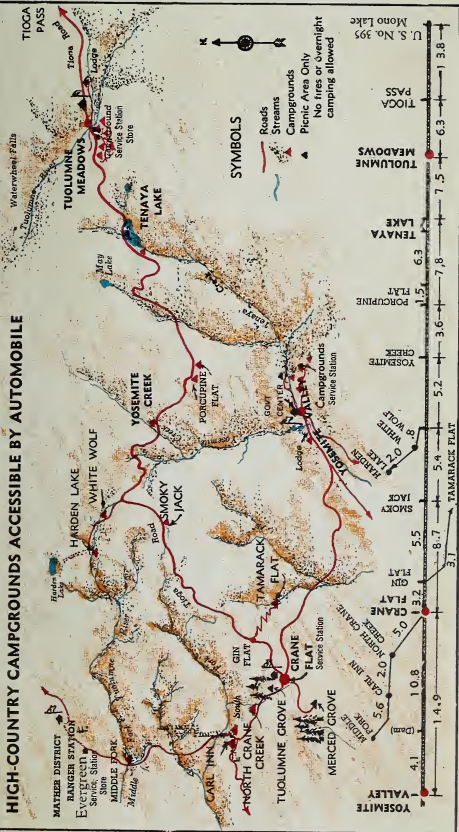
The ancient river valleys, V-shaped in form, were widened and deepened by glacial action. Terminal moraines developed lakes; later filled with sediment, the valley floors supported meadows and trees. Most High Country lake basins are in the transition stage with the change shown ranging from deep lake to shallow pond, shallow pond to marshy meadow, and marshy meadow to dry benchland supporting mature vegetation.

### GIANT STAIRSTEPS

Formed by glacial action on bedrock where fracture lines were vertical. Glacier carried materials broken off on down the canyon, leaving smooth, exposed surface upon recession of glacier. These "treads" became the breaking points for free-leaping waterfalls or cascades.



# HIGH-COUNTRY CAMPGROUNDS ACCESSIBLE BY AUTOMOBILE





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